



To: Veterinary Technician faculty

From: APR response team

Re: Academic Program Review

Great job on your Academic Program Review report and presentation. The report is well organized, informative, and clearly written. The presentation reflected these same attributes while presenting the more personal side of your program by including student pictures and stories, as well as displaying examples of some of the distinctive teaching tools used by your program.

Your report highlights a number of unique attributes of the Veterinary Technician (VT) program. This relatively new and developing program is an anchor program for the Redmond campus and your ability to function autonomously in Redmond without high levels of local support services is commendable. The partnership with Brightside Animal Center is a model for the way in which collaboration between COCC and local business or organizations can benefit both parties. Locating the VT lab facility at the Brightside shelter gives students access to shelter animals for learning activities while providing spay/neutering, dental cleaning, and other health care for some of the shelter animals. This is a win-win for both groups, although the off-campus location does create some challenges for the VT instructors who must teach lectures and labs in different locations. Successfully linking the separated lectures and labs into a coherent learning environment for students is attributable to the hard work of the dedicated faculty in the VT program.

As a developing program, the Veterinary Technician program is still evolving, supported by a strong Advisory Board and a large number and variety of clinical partners. The VT faculty has established a culture of actively engaging in assessing the quality of the program and then "closing the loop" by making changes. You have made clear alterations to curriculum and program based on assessment and input from employers, survey of recent graduates, and student performance on the VTNE exam. The impact of these modifications is shown by the improved pass rate on first-time VTNE exam, and the high rate of employment of your graduates.

Although the Veterinary Technician program is doing well, there are still challenges to be overcome. The facilities on Redmond campus (dedicated classroom, storage, offices) aren't permanent so the spaces cannot be adapted to meet the unique needs of the VT classes. The lab facilities, while dedicated to the VT program, need some upgrades to meet all USDA standards (floor coating in isolation space, painting...). There is no library in Redmond, and student support services are limited. Faculty members must travel to Bend to participate in many college activities, to serve on committees, and for meetings with colleagues and administrators. These issues should diminish as the Redmond campus grows and the VT program acquires dedicated space, but will remain challenging for some time to come.

The Veterinary Technician program also struggles with its student population. In its current single-cohort configuration, the attrition rate is unacceptably high, particularly since students must wait 2 years to resume their studies if they are unsuccessful in a course. Several changes are in the works to

help mitigate this problem. A selective admissions procedure is being developed for Fall 2018; restricting program access to those students who are most likely to succeed will reduce attrition, helping with class size and retention rates. In the future, the VT program may expand to an annual admission program instead of its current biannual approach. If this system is implemented, students who must drop the program one year would have the possibility of picking up where they left off in the following year.

As part of the Academic Program Review process, program goals for the next five years are determined, areas are identified where additional support could help reach these goals. Please see below for a response to each of these goals and requests:

### Goals

Identify a permanent space at the Redmond campus – A high priority that is underway. The Veterinary Technician program currently has dedicated classroom and office space, but they are not permanent. Plans are in place to remodel space on the Redmond campus for permanent use by the VT program.

Annual enrollment by 2021– This is a long-term goal that will wait until after implementation of selective admissions. It also is dependent on increased staffing levels.

Redmond VT lab building improvements – This is a high priority, particularly the areas identified in USDA inspections.

Increase veterinary/community partnerships to increase clinical practicum options – This is an ongoing process that will involve curriculum changes to degree requirements as well as increase community partnerships.

Seek grants – This is an ongoing priority; opportunities should be seized when they become available.

### Requests

Implement selective admissions – A high priority goal that is already in progress. Implementation should be complete for students entering in Fall 2018.

Redmond campus remodel – Funds have been allocated for the remodel and the process has begun. Work with Steve Pitman and Jerry Shulz to ensure that the needs of your program are met in the design.

VT lab building remodel – Some of the most immediate needs might be able to be taken care of by Campus Services. Work with your Department Chair and Instructional Dean to investigate this option. Other, less immediate, updates should go through the Facilities Advisory Committee request process. Work with your Department Chair to submit a request.

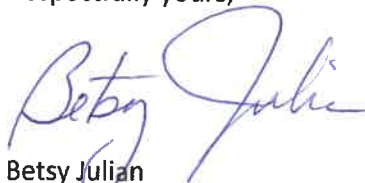
Approve annual enrollment (second cohort) – this is a long-term goal. Work with your Department Chair and Instructional Dean to determine the steps needed to ensure adequate staffing and budget before undertaking this project.

Provide a way for VT faculty at the Redmond campus to participate in college-wide committee work – This issue has been raised by several faculty members who are based in Redmond. Discussions are underway about possible technology options, as well as the possible creation of a committee dedicated to issues of interest to the Redmond, Madras, and Prineville campuses.


Move VT student advising to Redmond – As part of COCC's FYE initiative, there are major changes proposed to the advising schedule and process. Work with Seanna Barry to find a way to get this request implemented as part of these revisions.

The Veterinary Technician program has gone through some tumultuous years and is finally settling into its home in Redmond. The faculty have done an outstanding job in shepherding the program through its developmental stages and its transition to a new campus. The coming years should bring some welcome changes in the form of new classroom facilities and implementation of a selective admissions process. The next five years should be an exciting, if busy, time for the Veterinary Technician program.

Respectfully yours,



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